Rs. 1000 crore during the past two years.

(iii) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are given recapitalisation support.

(iv) Banks have been advised to set up specialised agricultural branches in each State to exclusively deal with high-tech agricultural advances.

(v) Banks have been advised to extend cash credit facilities for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having a good track record; and

(vi) with a view to improving the access of small and marginal farmers to institutional credit, NABARD has advised coop. banks to earmark funds in favour of small, marginal and economically weaker farmers.

Statement

Estimates of Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Agriculture			
	Total		Public Sector	
	at current prices	at 1980-81 prices	at current prices	at 1980-81 prices
1980-81	4636	4636	1796	1796
1981-82	5107	4503	1937	1781
1982-83	5734	4590	2128	1742
1983-84	5620	4101	2251	1711
1984-85	6475	4549	2463	1674
1985-86	7016	4325	2621	1520
1986-87	7045	4011	2667	1425
1987-88	8389	4414	3057	1458
1988-89	9063	4346	3162	1362
1989-90	10025	4353	2989	1156
1990-91	11592	4594	3193	1154
1991-92	13390	4729	3230	1002
1992-93	16614	5372	3750	1061
1993-94	16982	5031	4469	1153
1994-95	22487	6256	5551	1316
1995-96	26886	6961	5978	1268
1996-97*	29198	6999	6009	1132

*quick estimates

Rabi Crop

905. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious condition of the rabi crops of 1997-98 season;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the position in respect of major crops; and

(c) the details of the remedial measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The rabi crops of 1997-98 season have been somewhat adversely affected on account of untimely heavy rains in November/December, 1997. The statements giving

State-wise estimates of production of major rabi crops for 1996-97 and 1997-98 are annexed. [*See* Appendix 184, Annexure No 27].

(c) The prospects of rabi crops during 1997-98 was closely monitored in the Crop Weather Watch Group meetings in the Ministry of Agriculture. Besides, various meetings were also organised with different State Governments to overcome the problems being faced due to prevailing situation during rabi 1997-98 season. Arrangements were made for supply of quality seeds, of short duration varieties, fertilisers, pesticides, credit etc. Extension machinery was geared up. The senior officers in the Ministry were allotted States for close monitoring of the situation with a view to take remedial measures. As a result, the situation improved and the loss in production curtailed.

Degradation of Agricultural land in Orissa

906. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing degradation of agricultural land in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for the growing degradation of agricultural land; and

(c) the steps taken to check the degradation of land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for the growing degradation of agricultural lands are unscientific exploitation of the land resources, over-grazing, shifting cultivation, deforestation and haphazard mining etc.

(c) Department of Agriculture is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as (i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects, (ii) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas, to arrest degradation of agricultural lands in the State. In addition to this, the Government of Orissa also implement several programmes, namely, (i) Integrated Watershed Development Project (ii) Indo-Danish Comprehensive Watershed Development Project (iii) Plantation of miscellaneous and commercial species in wastelands. Besides the above, the State Department also takes up various Soil Conservation measures like Drainage Line Treatment, Check Dams, Stabilisation of shifting sand dunes, avenue plantation, etc., to certain Soil erosion.

Production of Cereals and Pulses in Orissa

907. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cereals and pulses in Orissa during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the target set for the production of cereals and pulses in the State for the same period; and

(c) the various steps taken to increase the area under cultivation of cereals and pulses in Orissa in Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The targets and achievements in production of cereals and pulses in Orissa during 1995-96 to 1997-98, is as follows:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Crops	Year	Targets	Achievements
Cereals	1995-96	72.89	63.71
	1996-97	72.60	45.36
	1997-98	69.30	64.87
Pulses	1995-96	11.30	4.31
	1996-97	11.30	2.99
	1997-98	7.00	3.84

(c) To increase the production and productivity of cereals and pulses, the